SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTION OF DATA PACKETS UTILIZING AN INTELLIGENT DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for efficient distribution of streamed media content to large and diversely located client locations is provided whereby an intelligent distribution network (IDN) center manages the delivery of the streamed media to a plurality of clients. The IDN center determines the most efficient delivery route to each client by utilizing trace routes between the IDN center, IDN nodes, various transmission devices and the client. Once a 'best performing' IDN node and network link is determined, the IDN center directs the client to the 'best' node and instructs deliver of a content stream along the 'best' link. Upon receiving the streamed media, the 'best' node replicates the stream and delivers the media to the client. Additional clients may 'piggyback' off the initial content stream by obtaining a replication of the media from their 'best' nodes which are, or connected to nodes, already transmitting/receiving the initial content stream.

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